

Docket No. RSW920030161US1

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISPLAYING
STATUS OF HIERARCHICAL OPERATIONS**

5

A method, apparatus, and computer instructions are disclosed for displaying the true status of hierarchical operations being performed in a data processing system. For example, a Z-order layering technique can be used to 10 display simultaneously on a screen the status of a plurality of operations being performed on elements of a hierarchical structure, such as, for example, on an inverted tree directory and a plurality of its sub-trees. Advantageously, the display can be scaled to include 15 operations being performed for many nested levels of the hierarchical structure, without having to increase the overall footprint of the display. Also, an application for copying a directory has to traverse the directory's structure only one time (e.g., during the copying 20 operation), because the application does not need to know in advance the total number of files that have to be copied.